

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
March 27, 2006
(approved 5/8/2006)

Vice Chair Richard Nass called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order for this special meeting at 8:50am in Room 438 of the State House. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the final draft language (March 23, 2006) on LD 1021 *“An Act To Implement Task Force Recommendations Relating to Parity and Portability of Benefits for Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters”*.

Fire Commission members present included Representative Patricia Blanchette, Jay Bradshaw, Representative Richard Brown, Senator Bruce Bryant, John Cannon, Representative Robert Duplessie, Robert Gardner (for Art Cleaves), Gerry Gay, Alex McPhedran, Senator Richard Nass and Charles Soltan. Guests of the Fire Commission included Ron Green and Jon Martell of the 1021 Coalition and Chief John Woulfe of the Rumford Fire Department.

Fire Commission members reviewed the progress of LD 1021 to date, the work of the 1021 Coalition and Representative Duplessie’s March 23rd amendment language. Members learned that the Labor Committee scheduled a work session on Tuesday, March 28th on LD 1021. If the Labor Committee votes on Tuesday, LD 1021 would then go to the House of Representatives, then to the Senate and back to the House. Depending on whether the bill has a positive or negative fiscal note (still to be determined) LD may end up on the Appropriations table.

Ron Green of the 1021 Coalition shared an email he received from Chief Cammack that included several questions and concerns that Fire Commission members had at the March meeting regarding LD 1021. These questions and the amendment language were discussed in great detail.

Vice Chair Nass suggested the Fire Commission had three choices to make regarding LD 1021- to support, to oppose or to not take a position.

A motion by John Cannon, seconded by Gerry Gay, to endorse LD 1021 “An Act To Implement Task Force Recommendations Relating to Parity and Portability of Benefits for Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters” as amended by the draft language offered by Representative Duplessie (March 23, 2006). The motion passed with one member opposed (Richard Nass) and two members abstaining (Jay Bradshaw and Robert Gardner).

Vice Chair Richard Nass adjourned the special meeting of the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission at 10:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette

